

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-02 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 /083 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN-G:DCLARE:PW

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

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R 150011Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: UK VIEWS ON SALE OF C-47'S TO GUATEMALA

REFERENCE: STATE 146420

1. DCM MORETON OF UK EMBASSY CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS JULY 10 FOLLOWING UP ON JUNE 16 LUNCHEON. MORETON SAID HMG HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY OUR STATEMENT THAT C-47 ISSUE UNDER RECONSIDERATION. UK DISTURBED, HOWEVER, BY INDICATIONS THAT WE MIGHT BE CONSIDERING SALE OF AT LEAST SOME C-47'S TO GUATEMALANS. UK WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT SOLE REASON GUATEMALANS WISHED INCREASE AIR FORCE WAS FOR INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT. MORETON ARGUED THAT TO MOUNT EFFECTIVE PARADROP, AT THIS TIME, GOG WOULD HAVE TO MOBILIZE CIVIL AIR FLEET WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ADVANCE WARNING. WITH ARAVA, GOG WOULD HAVE CAPABILITY OF DROPPING 440 MEN BY SURPRISE; ADDITION OF FIVE C-47'S WOULD INCREASE CAPABILITY.

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TY TO 580, WHILE ADDITION OF TEN C-47'S WOULD RAISE TOTAL TO

720.

2. MORETON SAID THAT UK DID NOT WANT TO BUILD-UP GARRISON, PARTICULARLY WHILE TALKS GOING ON, BUT INCREASED GUATEMALAN AIRLIFT GREATLY COMPLICATED DEFENSE OF BELIZE. ACCORDINGLY, UK WOULD REGARD SALE OF C-47'S AS "UNHELPFUL DEVELOPMENT"

AND ASKED USG TO GIVE "FULL WEIGHT" TO ITS VIEWS.

3. WE ASKED IF ARAVA ALONE MIGHT FORCE UK TO REASSESS MANNING LEVELS; MORETON SPECULATED THAT IT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO INCREASE IN GARRISON STRENGTH. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY AS TO WHETHER WITHDRAWAL OF WEST INDIES SQUADRON MIGHT NOT HAVE THAT EFFECT; MORETON ALLOWED THAT IT MIGHT, BUT NOTED THAT THE TWO FRIGATES WERE NOT TO BE WITHDRAWN FOR AT LEAST NINE MONTHS TO A YEAR.

4. ROGERS PROMISED TO TAKE UK VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT, ADDING THAT WE WOULD INFORM THEM OF ANY DECISIONS ON THIS TOPIC BEFORE ADVISING GUATEMALANS. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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